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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Argentina

DATE DISTR. 20 APR 51

SUBJECT Violence Between Personnel of La Prensa and
the CGT

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

25X1X

1. On the morning of 27 February 1951 personnel of La Prensa voted to have their paper reappear in Buenos Aires, and for that reason they elected to return to their work despite opposition from elements of the Confederacion General del Trabajo (CGT). Two reasons for their decision to return to work were: (1) to force the government to take some action in their favor, and (2) to prove to the government and the general public that the personnel of La Prensa were not on strike.
2. La Prensa employees, both plant and office workers, began to gather at noon on 27 February. The CGT, having been advised meanwhile of the gathering, sent eight matones (killers) to break up the crowd.* CGT officials were of the opinion that the workers would disperse, but when they showed unwillingness to leave and otherwise displayed their displeasure the matones opened fire. A well-informed police official told source that two persons were killed and six injured during the violence.** Only one member of the CGT, apparently a leader, was injured. He fired eight shots, inflicting serious injury on the workers. The latter retaliated by beating him severely. It was then that the police intervened.*** The violence took place at about 2:45 p.m. in front of the shops of La Prensa, located at Azopardo and Chile streets.
3. Reports of the incident which have appeared in Buenos Aires papers were "cooked up" at the Sub-secretariat of Information and Press following orders given by Major Carlos Aloe, a Casa Rosada official. According to source, articles declaring that the shooting was done by the newspaper workers are false.
4. Officials in the Casa Rosada are annoyed at the CGT because of the shooting. Although the officials wanted the crowd broken up they did not countenance the shooting. They believed that the incident would bring criticism from all over the world.
5. Raul Apold, head of the Sub-secretariat of Information and Press, has been ordered to play up in all newspapers and radios the "criminal action" of the La Prensa. According to an official of the Sub-secretariat, the order came from Major Carlos Aloe.

25X1A

Comment. This statement was made by an official of the Sub-secretariat of Information and Press.

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-2-

25X1A

** [REDACTED] Comment. Press reports published here said that only one worker, a certain Roberto Nunez, was killed.

25X1A

** [REDACTED] Comment. Had it not been for police intervention the GGT man would have been beaten to death.

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